Congresswoman Musgrave Leads In House To Secure Colo Agriculture Research Funds

Washington, DC: Serving one of the largest agricultural districts in the U.S. Congress, Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) announced today that she was successful in securing funding in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006. This bill passed the House today and will soon be signed into law by the President and it will provide research funding in the areas of beef cattle, wheat aphid, dryland crops, as well as animal diseases and identification.

"Farmers and ranchers are not working to just produce quality crops and meat for local consumption, but they are also striving to compete in the global market. These research funds will help them succeed in our drought stricken climate and advance the science of agriculture," said Musgrave. "Using sound science to focus on better agriculture is a worthwhile investment that will benefit our entire state."

Throughout this year, Musgrave has petitioned for federal funding for several high priority agriculture projects around Colorado, including the members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies to provide. As a result of her efforts, the following provisions were included in the final version of this bill:

UV-B Monitoring Program: $2,184,000

The Ultraviolet-B Monitoring and Research Program at CSU is the only source on geographical distribution and temporal trends of UV-B radiation information in the country. This information assesses the negative impacts of UV radiation on crops, livestock, ecosystems and forests.

National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation Consortium: $880,000

The consortium consists of Colorado State University, Cornell University and the University of Georgia, as well as cattlemen and breeders from across America. Its mission is to develop and implement improved methodologies and technologies for genetic evaluation of beef cattle for the purpose of maximizing the impact genetic programs have on the economic viability, international competitiveness, and sustainability of US beef cattle producers and to provide consumers with affordable and healthy beef products.

Center for Economically Important Infectious Animal Diseases: $817,000

The center began its activities in 1998 as the first single institution to fill a national void in the integrated research on animal diseases that threaten our national economy. Their research focuses on BSE, biosecurity for livestock, the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease in wildlife, West Nile Virus, and *E. coli* 0157:h7.

Russian Wheat Aphid Resistance, Stress Tolerance, and Quality Enhancement of Wheat: $306,000

-Researchers at Colorado State University are working to develop varieties of wheat that have improved heat and drought stress tolerance, which will serve to stabilize production under present climate conditions. CSU is ideally suited to undertake this research because of the close integration of its wheat breeding and wheat molecular genetics programs along with its history of research accomplishments in this area.

Regional Barley Mapping Project: $682,000

The North American Barley Genome Project is a model for sustained, product-oriented, comprehensive, multi-institutional, and collaborative agricultural research. Barley production, manufacturing and sales for products such as malt, beer, food, and livestock feed support millions of jobs and generate billions of dollars in excise and income tax revenue for the U.S.